

31 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Ghana-Guinea: The latest flare-up in the bitter feud over Guinea's continued support of Ghana's deposed president Nkrumah will have immediate Africa-wide political repercussions.

The detention by Ghanaian authorities of a Guinean delegation transiting Accra en route to a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) will have a sharply divisive impact on the assembling delegates. The episode seems certain to dominate the proceedings scheduled to begin today in Addis Ababa.

The incident may result in the postponement of the summit-level OAU conference slated to follow immediately. Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie has sent an emissary to Accra in an effort to smooth over the difficulties and salvage the two-stage conference. A number of African leaders, however, have long favored deferring their meeting to a more "opportune" time.

Although Ghana's military regime had been showing signs of increasing impatience with Conakry's continuing hostility, the seizure of the Guinean delegation evidently followed a hasty decision in which only some of the members of the ruling National Liberation Council (NLC) participated. The action was apparently triggered by reports reaching the NLC that some hard-core members of Nkrumah's Ghanaian entourage in Guinea would be going to the OAU meeting documented as Guineans. No such Ghanaian nationals were aboard the aircraft, however. *Since the Guineans were detained, the NLC has been reported determined to hold them as hostages until Touré discontinues assistance to Nkrumah.

(continued)

Guinean accusations of US complicity in the episode probably are intended to stimulate the US to put pressure on the Accra regime. Conakry is, in fact, already demanding US action to "assure" the onward transport of the detained delegation. The local representative of Pan American Airways, on whose aircraft the delegation was traveling, has been placed under restriction.

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*Venezuela: The government has ordered all military personnel restricted to quarters in the belief that it faces a widespread conspiracy.

This action followed an attempt by dissident officers and civilians to seize control of the National Guard training school early yesterday morning. A lieutenant colonel leading the attempt was killed and the other conspirators were arrested.

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[redacted] this attempt was the first in a series of moves throughout the country and in all branches of the armed forces to overthrow the government. President Leoni, the minister of defense, and the chiefs of the armed services met soon after the attempt to study the situation. [redacted] the plot was rightist in inspiration, but this allegation has not been confirmed by other reporting.

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Discontent and plotting are endemic in the armed forces. In recent months, conspiracy is believed to have been at a low point. Although most plotting has been rightist inspired, leftist and military rightists have cooperated in past attempts to overthrow the government.

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